

the RARS **Exciter**

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

January, 2003 Number 382

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Photo by KG4CXR

Max KO4TV and Ruth KE4DRI shopping at the Communications Headquarters booth at JARSfest

JARSfest 2002

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Members needed for PCRN Page 6 MOU is signed Page 10

Pictures from the JARSfest Page 8



The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form.

The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

Officers

President: **Bernard Blackmon W4BRB**
919-467-8719
bernardb@mindspring.com

Vice-President: **Andy Peterson NI4S**
919-845-6251
ni4s@arrl.net

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919-468-5358
jwalter@nc.rr.com

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919-859-0029
ke4pax@arrl.net

Exciter Editor: **Denyse Walter KG4CXR**
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INFO

Repeaters in Raleigh:

145.13
146.64
224.64
444.525 (88.5 PL)

WEB SITE <http://www.rars.org>

NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, January 7, 2003
ARRL EMCOM Courses

TRAINING

Contact Bill KG4CXY 919-469-0785
or go to www.hampublicservice.org



Red Cross First AID/CPR/AED Training
Jan 11, 2003 At Raleigh Community Hospital

DFMA Tech License Class (no code) Wednesday
Jan 15, Thru March 19, 2003 7:00-9:00pm At
the Durham Red Cross

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: Every first Tues of the Month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie
Trail and Clark Aveune, in Raleigh

Time: 7:30pm, Folks start showing up a bit before
7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.

VE TESTING: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in
testing which is on even months. Please bring a
photo ID, your original current license if you have
one, and any CSCEs you need for credit.. Check
into the 8:00 pm net every night on the 146.64
repeater or www.rars.org for information.

RARSfest Stage Manager Gary Pearce KN4AQ received this letter from the winner of the 2nd Prize Icom 207H dual-band mobile radio. As is often the case, the winner had already left the hamfest when the final prizes were drawn at 3 pm. Gary calls the winners of the main prizes who were not present to notify them that they won and verify their address, and ships the prize (or hands them to Jeff AC4ZO to deliver on a motorcycle ride).

Dear Sir,

My name is Craig Zunker KG4EDR, and I am writing to thank you and the club for the Icom 207H I won at the Hamfest in Raleigh. I had just come home from a family emergency and was feeling down and out. When I received the phone call about the radio, I had no idea I had won it. It was sure an uplift for me. I just wanted to say thank you and a special thanks to all the RARS club members. Hope to talk to you on freq and see you at next year's Hamfest.

Thank you
Craig Zunker KG4EDR
Goldsboro, NC

NOTE: RARS 444.525 (PL 88.5) IS UP AND RUNNING

The RARS Exciter depends on you. If you have an article, pictures or something you've learned and wish to share with others, please send or email to the editor.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society is now accepting credit card payments online for new members and membership renewals. You can join or renew your membership completely online using a secure credit card payment mechanism. See the RARS web site www.rars.org for more information or to renew for 1, 2 or 3 years! More info in the next months Exciter

FM Committee – RARS Tech Support meetings are held on the 5th Tuesday of any month that has 5 Tuesdays. Meetings are held at Danny Musten's office (KD4RAA)

All members can obtain a membership card by calling Denyse KG4CXR 919-468-5358 or email KG4CXR@nc.rr.com

146.88 145.39, 147.105, & 147.135
Repeaters are supported by PCRN
if you would like to donate please
make checks to:
PCRN
PO Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605

More info on PCRN:
[Http://www.pcrn.net](http://www.pcrn.net)

NET REPORTS FOR December, 2002

- ♦ 8:00PM DAILY: RARS Evening Net
- ♦ 9:00PM MON: SWL SIG
- ♦ 8:30PM SAT : Tech & Traders net

Total Net Activity:

Minutes: 888
Check-Ins: 469 in 35 Sessions
Traffic : 22 brought 22 passed

Minutes of the RARS October Board Meeting – Oct 15, 2002

The monthly board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on October 15. The meeting was called to order by President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB at 7:28 PM. Members present were KN4AQ, W4BRB, KG4CXR, KG4FIJ, KA2FWC, K4HF, K4HM, KG4OQA, AB4OZ, KE4PAX, NI4S, WA2UZO, and AC4ZO. The club matched approximately \$300.00 in contributions to PCRN. The total attendance including guests was 16.

On motion by AC4ZO and second by K4HM, the September 2002 Board Meeting minutes were approved as amended.

V.P. Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: KE4PAX reported that total membership is 272.

Committee Reports:

FM Committee – KA2FWC initiated discussion about establishing a new PL tone for the 145.13 repeater. Nothing resolved.

Exciter – KG4CXR asked for input from everyone about their significant ham-related events for possible publication in the year-end issue.

Net Manager – KG4OQA reported nets are going strong.

Web Master – WA2UZO reported that the domain name has been renewed for 3 years.

Member Services – KG4CXR had nothing to report.

Hamfest – K4HM reported that we still need someone to help out on the RARS table with Bob K1RCB. Next meeting scheduled for Oct 28.

Field Day – No report.

Public Information – KN4AQ had nothing to report.

Education – KN4AQ reported that the next Technician class will be the first week of March 2003. Discussion ensued about possible future code class.

VE Team – K4HF informed that Joe White WA4GIR and Liz White KO4CK will lead the VE Team in 2003.

Public Service – No report.

ARRL Liaison – K4HF reported on recent ARRL activities. Also reported that Bob Breyer K1RCB and Dick

Orander are doing well in the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course.

Nominating Committee – No report.

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee – AC4ZO had nothing to report.

Ad Hoc Committees: None.

Unfinished Business:

NI4S presented several options for purchasing a new video projector for Club use. Frank KA2FWC will check on a possible discount on a Sony model.

Financial Audit – AC4ZO presented the May 2002 Financial Audit Report to the board. The President asked K4HF, AC4ZO, KE4PAX, and K4HM to participate on the next Audit Committee. Discussion ensued about timing of future reports. Decided to do reports in June and December, for presentation to the July and January board meetings.

Online Payments – WA2UZO reported that Pay Pal account is set up. Discussion ensued about online dues procedures. K4HF advised WA2UZO to prepare a proposal and report back to the board. Group will meet consisting of WA2UZO, KE4PAX, KG4CXR, and K4HM.

New Business:

Café Express – Tabled until after the holidays.

Member Comments:

W4BRB spoke about proper procedures for Club members to bring issues to the attention of the Club. They should contact a board member so the issue can be acted on by the board and then brought to the general meeting.

KN4AQ reported that very few slots remain open for the State Fair.

Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Walter KG4FIJ, Secretary.

TECH/TRADER NET
8:30 PM SATURDAY ON 146.64
TWO NETS IN ONE!

**Minutes of the RARS General Meeting
Tuesday December 3, 2002**

Meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM by President Bernard Blackmon W4BRB.

Visitor: Misty Clark KG4SWC.

Treasurer's Report (KE4PAX): There are 280 members.

Announcements:

W4BRB announced that the new 444.525 repeater is up and operational.

Joe WA2UZO informed that membership dues can now be paid online at the RARS website (www.rars.org).

Gary KN4AQ reported a RARS member lost his HT, an Icom IC-W32A, and asked for everyone to be on the lookout for this radio.

Chuck K4HF officiated over the installation of new RARS board members for calendar year 2003.

Vice President Bob K1RCB introduced the evening's program, which consisted of holiday songs performed by David and Rosene Rohrer on guitar and flute.

Gary KN4AQ performed his annual reading of his original composition "A Ham's Night Before Christmas," despite having forgotten to bring the poem to the meeting with him and having to hurriedly write it out in longhand by memory.

Door prizes were won by W1HZQ and KG4CXR.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.



Rosene and David Rohrer Christmas Entertainment



Outgoing Vice President Bob K1RCB



RARS Christmas Party 2002

PCRN Support Very Low in Triangle

by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

There were two important messages in a note from Frank Lynch W4FAL on the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network mailing list recently:

First, the good news. PCRN sincerely appreciates the support that RARS and the Cary ARS demonstrated in the membership drive last September and October. Together the club members (with RARS matching contribution) raised more than \$1000 for PCRN.

Second, the bad news. PCRN has 99 current supporting members, and that's after the membership drive. Most of those are in the Triangle area, though a handful of members are scattered around the state or nearby states. That is pitifully low. The updated membership list on the PCRN web site (www.pcrn.net) shows about 250 members going back to January, 2001. So there are a lot of people out there who have been supporters but are not "current."

Now, PCRN is not the best organization I've seen at promoting themselves or fundraising. I don't recall getting a "renewal notice." You probably didn't get one either. PCRN is a small group of hams who are very good at working on repeaters, and very poor at being a "club." But they've built their repeater system up to the point where it needs a lot of maintenance, and costs a lot of money, just to keep things going. This year has been particularly expensive, with a tower falling and equipment failures at several key sites in the network. I believe that the bulk of the funds have never come from user contributions, but I think that costs today are outstripping the core group's ability to fund PCRN personally. More money has to come from users.

Seems to me that PCRN should easily have several hundred members, considering the facilities they make available to the Triangle ham community, including SKYWARN and ARES:

53.03 Raleigh
145.39 Raleigh
146.88 Raleigh
147.105 Lillington
147.135 Chapel Hill
224.12 Chapel Hill (under construction)
224.16 Raleigh
PCRN Linking System

and beyond:

145.12 Trenton
145.31 Roseboro
145.43 Green Mountain (Sparta)
147.255 Ashboro
145.35 Charlotte

And I know that Danny K4ITL and his crew maintain many of the other PCRN link repeaters, and several other Triangle area repeaters, that they don't own themselves.

PCRN asks for a minimum \$20 annual contribution. If you can help, here's the address:

PCRN
P.O. Box 12734
Raleigh, NC 27605

Please help PCRN as it provides incredible repeater facilities to all of us in the Triangle area and beyond.

EXCITER EDITOR REUNION



Photo by Jim KG4FIJ

Exciter Editors: Walter KM4BU visited us from Texas and came to the RARS dinner on Nov 26. He was the Exciter Editor before Gary KN4AQ (right) who later gave the job to Denyse KG4CXR. It was fun hearing what the Exciter was like in days past.

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Photo by Gary KN4AQ

JARSfest VE Team: Joseph WA4GIR, Charles WA4VFJ and Liz KO4CK

BUYING AT JARSfest



Photo by Denyse KG4CXR



Photo by Denyse KG4CXR

Liz KF4UQZ looking for goodies



Photo by KG4CXR

Eric KG4CXW buying from Mark WD4KSE



**The Central Carolina
Skywarn Net Meets
Tuesdays at 9:15 PM
on 146.88 Repeater**

Remember to give damage reports AFTER the storms as well as DURING the storms.



Photo by Jim KG4FIJ

SKYWARN MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

by Denyse KG4CXR AEC Wake County

The monthly Skywarn meeting was held Sunday Nov 24, at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cary. The program was on IRLP, Internet Radio Linking Project which is linking a 2 meter ham radio to a computer and communicating all over the world. There will be no meeting in December. The January 26, 2003 meeting will be with the new severe weather supervisor at the NWS.



**Join Us At the
RARS Dinner**



**Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at
Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.**

Every Wednesday 9:30 145.19



HAMFEST CALENDAR

January 11:	Greenwood, SC
January 26:	Odenton, MD
February 1:	N. Charleston, SC
February 9:	Richmond, VA
February 22:	Dalton GA
March 8-9	Charlotte, NC
March 23	Kinston, NC



Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

W4CC Signs ARRL/NCCEM MOU at JARSfest

I am pleased to announce that the Memorandum of Understanding between the ARRL NC Section and North Carolina Emergency Management has been signed. I signed the document in front of a crowd at the JARSfest in Benson on November 17th.

This document spells out the command structure, expectations and responsibilities between our organizations. While we have had informal agreements with NCCEM for many years, this MOU should clarify the nature of our relationship. A lot of hard work has gone into this document, but the efforts of John Guerriero, KG4HDT, really stands out. John is our EC for NCCEM, and did much of the research needed to make this happen. Without his persistence, we would still be waiting. Thanks, John.

This document will soon be published on www.ncarrl.org. Other components of our emergency plan are currently being written, but this is a great start. We now have a new Affiliated Club Coordinator in NC. Jason Kay, N4JCK of Charlotte has agreed to serve as our ACC. Jason is President of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club (W4CQ) and is available to assist clubs with affiliation matters and Special Service Club applications. Jason replaces me as ACC. I will continue to visit clubs just as I have been doing. Don't forget to let us know when your club's officers change. It's important for us to have current contact information.

Fill out the Annual Report form on ARRLweb, or contact Jason. New officers often do not know how to keep the affiliation and contact information current. We are glad to help them, but we have to know who they are! Jason's e-mail is n4jck@arrl.net and mine is w4cc@arrl.net. My entire contact information is always on page 12 of QST every month.

As I have mentioned before, I would like to see us push for a North Carolina version of the PRB-1 preemption. I am looking for any written documentation showing how local ordinances or zoning rules adversely affect amateur radio.

If you have had trouble putting up antennas due to local government rules (not restrictive covenants, that's a separate issue), please let me know. As much as possible, we need evidence in writing rather than anecdotal evidence.

John Covington, W4CC - SEC.



John W4CC, John KG4HDT, Tom N4TAB

TUNE IN THE RARS NEWS HOUR

◆ **Newsline**
◆ **ARRL Audio News**
Sunday Nights following the
RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64

RARS NEW MEMBERS

December 2002

RARS welcomes each and everyone. Thank you for considering our club for membership

ED N4PBB
Pete N4HQZ

Steve KJ4BX
Cole W1HZQ

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JARSfest 2002

Rain and cold will not keep a real ham from any Hamfest. The JARSfest was a great success despite the rain and cold (but no snow this year). The flea market was washed out early, but everyone crowded inside. JARS burgers were awesome and fun was had by all. More pictures inside.

Photo by Gary KN4AQ